

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 is canceled. Therefore, on entering this amendment, claim 2 is the only claim pending in the application.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Background Art of the specification of this application Part 2 from pages 5-6 (hereinafter Background) in view of Langford et al. (6650516 B2).

The Applicant traverses the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Rejection of Claims 1-2 as being unpatentable over the Background Art of the specification of this application Part 2 from pages 5-6 in view of Langford et al.

Claim 1 has been canceled rendering its rejection moot.

Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that the controlling device causes a rectifying current of the current control rectifying element to be a decreasing condition and a non-feeding condition before a contact of the relay apparatus is opened when the supply of the electric power to the driving unit is turned off. This is supported at least in paragraphs [0030] and [0032] of the Specification.

The secondary reference Langford is cited merely for the teaching related to a breaker connected to a power supply. The Examiner cites the background section of the present Application in support for his alleged position that the combined teachings of the admitted prior art and Langford suggest the present invention.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teachings of the admitted prior art and Langford do not suggest the present invention (as recited in amended claim 2). Specifically, the combined teachings at least do not suggest a controller device that causes a rectifying current of the current control rectifying element to be a decreasing condition and a non-feeding condition before a contact of the relay apparatus is opened when supplying of the electric power to the driving unit is turned off. In fact, in the background section there is no mention of the rectifying current of the current control rectifying element at all.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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